

JEFFREY M. PRIETO

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Proven manager and attorney with unique experience in leading large public sector legal organizations, facilitating collaboration, and implementing public policy. Significant expertise in complex litigation and investigations, legal and regulatory matters, and senior level management. Currently serves as the Los Angeles Community College District (District) General Counsel.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles Community College District, Office of the General Counsel, Los Angeles, CA

General Counsel, September 2017 to Present

Serves as the chief legal officer and advisor to an elected District Board of Trustees, Chancellor, Personnel Commission, and senior management. Provides executive leadership over all District strategic and tactical legal initiatives, programs, and services. Manages the work of the District's Office of the General Counsel, outside legal counsel, the District's \$9.5 billion building program's construction counsel and the District's Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, including Title IX matters. Advises the Board of Trustees, Chancellor, and executive staff on legal matters related to governance and the policies, programs, and projects of the District. Identifies, analyzes and responds appropriately to risks which have legal implications that may adversely affect realization of the District's educational and business objectives.

- Leads LACCD's efforts in a lawsuit filed against Education Secretary Betsy DeVos (*Oakley v. DeVos*) seeking to declare the Department of Education's (DOE) eligibility requirements for emergency grants to students under the CARES Act unlawful and unconstitutional and to halt their implementation. DOE sought to exclude California community college students from receiving emergency assistance that Congress approved, including veterans, citizens who had not completed a federal financial aid application, and non-citizens, including undocumented students and those with DACA status. LACCD is a plaintiff in litigation, joining the California Community College Board of Governors and other California Community College Districts. On June 17, 2020, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California issued a preliminary injunction that prevented DOE from imposing any student eligibility requirement upon the distribution of emergency relief assistance to students under the CARES Act. The matter is on appeal.

United States Department of Agriculture, Office of the General Counsel, Washington, DC

General Counsel, August 2015 to January 2017

Confirmed by the United States Senate in July 2015 and sworn in as General Counsel in August 2015. Served as the chief law officer of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and was responsible for providing legal advice and services to the Secretary of Agriculture and

to all other officials and agencies with respect to all USDA programs, operations, and activities. Provided executive leadership and oversight of five divisions, four regional offices, and eight branch offices consisting of approximately 280 attorneys and legal professionals. Managed a budget of over \$43 million. Involved in all major USDA litigation, including class action matters, high-profile investigations, and major legislation.

- Led USDA's efforts to finalize the historic *Keepseagle* class action lawsuit with Native American farmers and ranchers. The final phase involves redistribution and disbursement of a *cypres* fund totaling approximately \$380 million. Involvement included advising the Secretary, coordinating with senior Department of Justice (DOJ) officials, and briefings with the USDA Office of the General Counsel (OGC) litigation team.
- Led USDA's legal efforts to facilitate the landmark purchase agreement between the USDA Forest Service and the Shee Atika Native Corporation, resulting in the largest transfer of lands from a private inholding into a Forest Service managed Wilderness area.
- United States of America v. BP Exploration & Production Inc. et al. (E.D. La.): Represented USDA's legal interests during the internal discussions to finalize the consent decree involving civil claims against BP. The Consent Decree required BP to pay a Clean Water Act ("CWA") civil penalty of \$5.5 billion (plus interest), \$8.1 billion in natural resource damages (this includes \$1 billion BP already committed to pay for early restoration), up to an additional \$700 million for adaptive management or to address injuries to natural resources that are presently unknown but may come to light in the future, and \$600 million for other claims, including claims under the False Claims Act, royalties, and reimbursement of natural resource damage assessment costs and other expenses due to this incident.

Acting General Counsel, November 2014 to August 2015

Served as the chief law officer of the Department and was responsible for providing legal advice and services to the Secretary of Agriculture and to all other officials and agencies with respect to all USDA programs, operations, and activities.

Principal Deputy General Counsel, June 2014 to November 2014

Shared the responsibility for all legal work of the Department, including providing legal advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and members of the Secretary's staff, the Deputy Secretary, Under and Assistant Secretaries, the heads of agencies of the Department, and officials of other governmental agencies interested in or affected by the programs of the Department.

United States Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Washington, DC

Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel, November 2012 to June 2014

Served as the legal advisor to the Executive Officer, Deputy Assistant Attorneys General, and the Assistant Attorney General on matters related to contract and procurement law, appropriations law, employee and labor relations matters, and legal training. Under the direction of the Executive Officer, provided executive policy and management guidance to the Executive Office's organizational groups.

Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, February 2010 to November 2012

Represented the Office of the Assistant Attorney General in working with DOJ and Division personnel to implement policies and initiatives, including environmental justice and diversity

management matters. Specific duties included serving as a liaison to the Division's Law and Policy Section and Land Acquisition Section to provide management and support. Served as part of the BP Exploration & Production Inc. et al. "quantification" trial team.

- United States of America v. BP Exploration & Production Inc. et al. (E.D. La.): Prepared the affirmative discovery regarding the Phase 2 "quantification" portion of case. Prepared senior officials, including a Senate confirmed official, for testimony.

Trial Attorney, August 1999 to February 2010

Served as an attorney responsible for conducting affirmative civil litigation to control and abate pollution, primarily through enforcement of federal statutes, including those which regulate discharges into the nation's air and water. The statutes enforced by the Division include the CWA, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), Clean Air Act ("CAA"), and Resources Conservation and Recovery Act, among others.

- 2006-2009, United States v. Kentucky Utilities Company (E.D. Ky.), lead attorney of a litigation team in a CAA enforcement case against Kentucky Utilities Company, securing approximately \$135 million on pollution controls, including the most stringent limit for nitrogen oxide emissions ever imposed in a federal settlement with a coal-fired power plant.
- 2002-2009, United States v. City of New Orleans, et al. (E.D. La.), lead attorney of a litigation team in a CERCLA enforcement case against the City of New Orleans seeking to recover costs incurred by EPA for a series of removal actions at the Agriculture Street Landfill Site in New Orleans, Louisiana. Responsibilities also include representing the United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding claims associated with the Corps' involvement at the Site.

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC

Attorney-Advisor, August 1998 to August 1999

Served as an attorney responsible for the development of regulations to establish requirements concerning the legal, economic, and technical aspects of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit issuance and NPDES state program administration under the CWA. Duties included serving as a Phase II NPDES Storm Water team member.

White House Fellow, Washington, DC

September 1997 to August 1998

Selected by President Clinton to participate as one of fifteen White House Fellows for 1997-1998. The program included placement with Cabinet Secretaries or other senior White House appointees and extensive educational programs in policy making at the highest levels. Assigned to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Assignments included representing the Department in meetings with members of Congress to discuss Latino health issues.

JM Consulting Group, Santa Barbara, CA

Senior Environmental Planner, September 1990 to July 1992

Provided management and technical support to the firm's environmental section. Oversaw all aspects of projects including managing of client contact, coordination with agencies and application processing. Consultant coordination included analysis of Environmental Impact Reports and planning documents.

City of Santa Barbara Community Development Department, Planning Division

Environmental Analyst, Development Review Section, April 1990 to September 1990

Provided management and technical support to the division's environmental review section. Researched, processed and prepared reports for major discretionary projects with significant environmental concerns. The position required extensive knowledge of local, California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, and federal environmental regulations.

Multiple Positions, August 1984 to April 1990

Served in several positions, ranging from serving as staff to the Environmental Review Committee to preparing special projects.

BAR ADMISSIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

California

District of Columbia

EDUCATION**Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs**

Master in Public Affairs and Urban and Regional Planning, June 1997

University of California, Los Angeles School of Law

J.D., May 1995

University of California, Santa Barbara

Bachelor of Arts in History, June 1983

SELECTED AWARDS

Awarded USDA Abraham Lincoln Honor Award (Implementation of "Farm Bill"-2015)

Awarded DOJ Assistant Attorney General Award (Deepwater Horizon Team-2011)

Awarded DOJ Assistant Attorney General Award for Excellence (Diversity Team-2009)

Awarded DOJ Special Achievement Award (Kentucky Utilities-2009)

Awarded Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School Edward P. Bullard Alumnus Award (2003)

Awarded EPA Gold Medal for Exceptional Service (IBP-2002)

Awarded DOJ Special Achievement Award for Sustained Superior Performance of Duty (IBP-2002)

Awarded EPA Silver Medal for Exceptional Service (Storm Water Phase II Final Rule-2000)

Selected as one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics by *Hispanic Business* Magazine (1997)

SELECTED COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Green Leadership Trust (2020-Present)

American Forests, Board of Directors (2019-Present)

Princeton University Scholars in the Nation's Service, Advisory Board (2011-2015)

DOJ Association of Hispanic Employees for Advancement and Development, Vice-Chair (2013-2014)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Vestry Member (2005-2007)

Hispanic Bar Association of D.C., Board of Directors (1999-2001)